

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00

PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 JUSE-00 ERDA-05 /086 W

----- 012195

R 182304Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8847

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NERG

SUBJ: DRAFT CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL

REF: STATE 036745

1. IN APPROACHING CANADA ON REFTEL, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE THAT THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP OF CANADA AND U.S. IN THIS AND RELATED SECURITY FIELDS CALLS FOR CAREFUL COORDINATION IN ORDER THAT EXISTING COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT BE JEOPARDIZED BUT RATHER STRENGTHENED. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GOC CERTAINLY SHARES U.S. VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT AND, IN FACT, HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC SECURITY AND COOPERATING WITH U.S. ON THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING THE TERRORIST RELATED ASPECT OF IT. HENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY WELL BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED AND THE LEGAL WORDING OF VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF A CONVENTION, THE DEPARTMENT CAN ANTICIPATE THAT THE GOC WILL GIVE SUPPORT TO ANYTHING WHICH STANDS A REASONABLE CHANCE OF IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL PICTURE.

2. IN PURSUING BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE GOC ON THIS AND RELATED SECURITY MATTERS, THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN A CLEAR
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UNDERSTANDING THAT WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED INTERNATION-

ALLY REPRESENTS A LEAST COMMON DENOMINATOR, POLITICALLY, AND THAT THIS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY INFLUENCE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SHOULD RATHER REFLECT WHAT TWO FRIENDLY AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CAN DO TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR THEIR CITIZENS. AS A RESULT, AN INTRICATE WEB OF RELATIONSHIPS HAS DEVELOPED WHICH INVOLVES FORMAL AS WELL AS INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN A NUMBER OF GOC AGENCIES, E.G., EXTAFF, ECMP, AECB, SOLICITOR GENERAL, AND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. IN THE OPERATIONS/SL CONTEXT THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE. HENCE, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT A MULTINATIONAL INITIATIVE DOES NOT INADVERTENTLY RESULT IN A SITUATION WHICH COULD LOWER THE OVERALL LEVEL OF NORTH AMERICAN PROTECTION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE EXISTING CONTACTS BE FULLY AND CURRENTLY AWARE OF THE DEVELOPING SITUATION. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN THEIR REQUIREMENTS BE MADE KNOWN TO EXTAFF WHICH WILL NECESSARILY CARRY THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A MULTINATIONAL INITIATIVE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, THIS EMBASSY WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ASSURE THAT THE VARIOUS GOC OPERATIONAL CONTACTS ARE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PHYSICAL SECURITY, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, AGREEMENT DRAFT, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA00647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-0022
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760239/aaaabiaoq.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 36745
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL
TAGS: ENRG, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006